

## Draft Hartford EnergyCommission minutes

January 30, 2025

Present in person: Lynn Bohi, Sarah Kelly, Cathy Geiger 5:21; Eric Francis, guest, Dana Clawson, staff

Present Virtually: Laura Simon, Richard Otis, Esme Cole, Jesse Pollard; guests, Sherry Bouchart, Tad Montgomery, Carly Walker- Porino

Jese called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Minutes: Laura moved and Esme seconded that the December minutes be approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Coordinator's report:**

- Trailblazers: There will be another session this summer, in late July until early September. Women may apply now on the Vermont Works for Women website. This is an evening & weekend class for 15 women who are interested in learning about construction. There is no cost.
- EV chargers: The process is moving along for the 4 level 3 chargers with 2 ports each. The site host agreement will be signed by the Town. Dana is working with Norwich Technology and Vermont Law and Graduate School on the wording of the contract.
- Energy Efficient block grant: The D.O.E. grant started 1.5 years ago and was to be used for the ice rink. The process for funding is that Hartford pays for the work then is reimbursed by the Federal Government.
- On February 13, Efficiency Vermont personnel will talk to the Planning Commission about CBES. There are new concepts for solar and EV capability, as well as other topics. March 5 from 9- noon, EVT will talk to builders about new RBES standards.
- On February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Bugbee Senior Center, a hydrologist is talking about 100 years on the White River and what has been learned.

**EV expo:** This will be in September at Hartford Town Hall. Laura and Cathy are doing initial organizing along with Sherry. The idea is to have EVs and owners, E bikes and owners, and some of the town's electric lawn mowers, leaf blowers, etc. Some equipment vendors will be asked to attend, however, in the past, they have found they don't get enough business to be worth attending. September is national Drive Electric month. There are also electric snowmobiles. Cathy would like to look into the VAST trails and if they need charging stations.

**Earth Day Oppen House :** Lebanon's LEAC committee is inviting people who have solar panels, heat pumps, E bikes and other items to show and share these items with the Upper Valley on April 26 and 27. HEC will vote to co-sponsor the event in February.

**Geothermal District:** Oak Ridge Labs report was supposed to be received this week, but has been postponed due to the change in administrations. To serve the buildings of Hotel Coolidge, the Briggs, The Cartoon College, and the former bank across from the CCS, needs 400 tons BTU costing \$1500 per pump, the cost of the system is estimated to be around \$6 million. This does not

include upgrades to the buildings. If the Coolidge and Briggs are set to current code, it would save \$300,000 in fuels. There was a suggestion to heat water at night to be used during the day. 120 bore holes will be needed. Ratcliffe Park has room for 1000 bore holes. Bore holes below 500 feet require Federal approval. There would be a 75% energy savings for the buildings improved to the level of the new standards. Perhaps the whole downtown should be served. Dave Briggs has talked with Dartmouth about the bore holes for their project. **Ongoing questions:** who owns the district? Can we lease state lands? Esme will talk to BGS about leasing the land. The tunnel under the railroad that might be used to run pipes may have a problem. Amtrak will be re-doing the platform and may cover the tunnel entrance. The final meeting with Oak ridge National Laboratory will be February 17.

**Nature Conservancy resilience report:** This was the to follow up on the Community Resilience workshop about environmental challenges to health, physical features, and social structures. The draft came last week. Department heads are reviewing it and Matt Osborn (Town Planner) and Dana are reviewing it. The final edits will be sent in next week. This will help in the hazard mitigation planning that is due in early 2026 that is required for Hartford to receive future FEMA funds.

**Priorities:** Jesse, Lynn, Esme and Cathy have sent their priorities in, Sarah said Culvert Crawlers is a priority for her. She has a student writing a Senior thesis on the findings. Eric has pictures of culvert failures from the past that he will share with Sarah. Lynn suggested the Natural Resource Conservation districts follow river activity and may be useful. Sarah suggested the student report to HEC in a few months. Richard's priority is buildings. Especially the DPW wastewater treatment plant heat pumps.

Final 4 topics and CAP applicable section

- Hazzard Mitigation- report, culvert crawlers - section 8
- Municipal Operations- wastewater treatment plant- section 5
- Geothermal- Dave Briggs, tax investment, technology, logistics =sections 2 and 10
- Education and Community involvement- EV events
- Geothermal work group will meet the week after Presidents' Day: Jesse, Esme, Cathy, Eric, Laura, Lynn

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi , Clerk